

## Bureau of Land Management, Interior

## § 3260.12

### § 3255.14 How will BLM administer information concerning other Indian minerals?

For information concerning Indian minerals not covered by § 3255.13, BLM will withhold such records as may be withheld under an exemption to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552) when it receives a request for information related to tribal or Indian minerals held in trust or subject to restrictions on alienation.

12. Section 3255.15 is added to read as follows:

[63 FR 52953, Oct. 1, 1998]

### § 3255.15 When will BLM consult with Indian mineral owners when information concerning their minerals is the subject of a FOIA request?

BLM will notify the Indian mineral owner(s) identified in the records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and BIA, and give them a reasonable period of time to state objections to disclosure, using the standards and procedures of § 2.15(d) of this title, before making a decision about the applicability of FOIA exemption 4 to:

(a) Information obtained from a person outside the United States Government; when

(b) Following consultation with a submitter under § 2.15(d) of this title, BLM determines that the submitter does not have an interest in withholding the records that can be protected under FOIA; but

(c) BLM has reason to believe that disclosure of the information may result in commercial or financial injury to the Indian mineral owner(s), but is uncertain that such is the case.

[63 FR 52953, Oct. 1, 1998]

## Subpart 3256—Exploration Operations Relief and Appeals

### § 3256.10 May I request a variance from any BLM requirements?

(a) Yes, you may request a variance for your exploration operations from the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4. Your request must include enough information to explain:

- (1) Why you cannot comply; and
- (2) Why you need the variance to control your well, conserve natural re-

sources, protect public health and safety, property, or the environment.

(b) We may approve your request verbally or in writing. If we give you a verbal approval, we will follow up with written confirmation.

### § 3256.11 How may I appeal a BLM decision regarding my exploration operations?

You may appeal a BLM decision regarding your exploration operations in accordance with 43 CFR 3200.5.

## Subpart 3260—Geothermal Drilling Operations—General

### § 3260.10 What types of geothermal operations are covered by these regulations?

(a) The regulations in 43 CFR subparts 3260 through 3267 establish permitting and operating procedures for drilling wells and conducting related activities for the purpose of performing flow tests, producing geothermal fluids, or injecting fluids into a geothermal reservoir. These subparts also address redrilling, deepening, plugging back, and other subsequent well operations.

(b) The operations regulations in subparts 3260 through 3267 do not address conducting exploration operations, which are covered in subpart 3250 of this part, or geothermal resources utilization, which is covered in subpart 3270 of this part.

### § 3260.11 What general standards apply to my drilling operations?

Your drilling operations must:

- (a) Meet all environmental and operational standards;
- (b) Prevent unnecessary impacts to surface and subsurface resources;
- (c) Conserve geothermal resources and minimize waste;
- (d) Protect public health, safety and property; and,
- (e) Comply with the requirements of 43 CFR 3200.4.

### § 3260.12 What other orders or instructions may BLM issue me?

We may issue:

- (a) Geothermal resource operational orders, for detailed requirements that apply nationwide;